GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:349
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
FAR EASTERN COMMAND AT PORT BLAIR
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given green signal for Tri Service Far Eastern Command (FEC) at Port Blair as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 15, 2001 under the caption `For Eastern Command at Port Blair on anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total operational area under this new Command;

(d) the idea behind setting up this Command; and

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred annually thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): At present, the Fortress Commander Andaman & Nicobar (FORTAN), established in 1977, coordinates the operation of the Defence Forces and the Coast Guards in the islands.A proposal to upgrade this to a Far Eastern Naval Command is under active consideration of the Government.